

What is claimed is:

1. A cordless screwdriver having a housing (12, 18), having a handle (14), in particular one that is angled in pistol fashion, having a preferably permanently installed rechargeable battery (40), having charging contact tabs (37) for charging the rechargeable battery (40), and having an output spindle (20), wherein the wireless screwdriver (10) has a lithium-ion (Li-ion) cell as its rechargeable battery (40) and is able to be placed onto a charging cradle (22) for an unlimited amount of time, in particular during pauses between uses; the charging mode is automatically initiated and in it, the cordless screwdriver (40), with regard to its output spindle (20), is positioned on the charging cradle (22) so that it is inclined, in particular by approximately 30 – 45°, in relation to the perpendicular and the end of the output spindle (20) points downward.
2. The cordless screwdriver as recited in claim 1, wherein in the charging mode, the handle (14) protrudes out far enough from the charging cradle (22) to permit a hand to easily grasp it from underneath and/or reach all the way around it in order to remove the cordless screwdriver (10).
3. The cordless screwdriver as recited in claim 1, wherein the charging contact tabs (37) protrude outward through lateral slots (35) at the lower end of the handle (14) on both sides of the dividing plane (15) on the side of the inner angle and in the charging mode, engage with charging contacts (23) of the charging cradle (22) without requiring the attachment of a separate cable or plug connector.
4. The cordless screwdriver as recited in claim 1, wherein each of the slots (35) and a recess (33) surrounding the slot (35) is situated in one of the casing halves (16, 17), spaced equidistantly apart from the central plane (15).

5. The cordless screwdriver as recited in claim 1,
wherein in the charging mode, the cordless screwdriver (10) rests with the
recesses (33) in its handle (14) covering the resilient charging contacts (23) of
the charging cradle (22) and by engaging over them, is secured against an
undesired detachment from the charging cradle.

6. The cordless screwdriver as recited in claim 1,
wherein the top of the charging cradle (22) has beds (25, 251, 252) to
accommodate the cordless screwdriver (10) that correspond to an imprint of the
outer surfaces of its inner angle enclosed by the handle (14) and the motor
housing (12) and transmission housing (18); at least one of the beds (25, 251,
252) extends at an inclination of less than 90° in relation to the perpendicular.

7. The cordless screwdriver as recited in claim 1,
wherein the handle (14) protrudes in wedge fashion into the bed (25, 251, 252)
of the charging cradle (22) with only its on/off button (26) and the handle (14)
itself to protrudes up from the charging cradle (22) and is only minimally inserted
into the bed (25, 251, 252).

8. The cordless screwdriver as recited in claim 1,
wherein it is possible to place the charging cradle (22) in a stable fashion on a
flat, in particular horizontal, supporting surface, without having to mount it in
place or hold it when removing the cordless screwdriver.

9. The cordless screwdriver as recited in claim 1,
wherein the on/off button (26) extends over virtually the entire length of the
handle (14) and, with a short actuation stroke of 1 to 5 mm, preferably 2 mm, it is
possible to actuate it to switch on at any point along this length.

10. The cordless screwdriver according to the preamble to claim 1,
wherein a circuit board (36), which serves to accommodate electrical contacts
(37) and control elements, extends lengthwise in the handle (14) and – held in
clamp fashion by means of the casing halves (16, 17) of the housing (12) –
5 serves to stiffen the housing structure.

11. The cordless screwdriver as recited in claim 1,
wherein on each side of the casing half (16, 17), the handle has a rubber
covering that covers a large area, bulges outward, and is provided with a nubbed
10 structure.